

REMARKS

Examiner Joseph is thanked for his time and courtesy he extended to Applicant's Representative during the personal interview on February 28, 2002. At the interview, the Office Action mailed October 25, 2001, was discussed.

In order to advance the prosecution, claims 1 and 2 have been amended and new claims 21-26 have been added. Claims 1-5 and 20-26 are now pending in the application with claims 12-15 and 17-19 being withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, because these claims are directed to the non-elected invention, and claim 16 has previously been canceled.

Extension of Time

A Petition has been filed under the provisions of 37 CFR §1.136 for an extension of time to respond to the Office Action of October 25, 2001. The appropriate fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17 is filed herewith.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,948,064 to Bertram in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,757,918 to Hopkins. Additionally, the Examiner rejected claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bertram patent in view

of Hopkins as applied to claims 1 and 6 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,710,884 to Dedrick.

It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patentable over the art of record for the following reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

As recited in amended claim 1, the information storage medium is automatically and directly readable by the user recognizing unit while being inserted into the user recognizing unit.

The advantages obtained by the above feature are as follows:

As the information storage medium is automatically and directly readable by the user recognizing unit while being inserted into the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium is readable by the user recognizing unit without the need inputting "logon commands" as in Bertram. This difference is essential with respect to the easiness of changing the operating environment of the computer.

In Bertram, in order to change the operating environment of the computer, it is necessary for the operator to know how to input the "logon commands" and to have the ability to input the "logon commands". That is, it is necessary for the operator to know the present assignment of the keys of the keyboard or the like. That is, if an operator, as a senior person, doesn't know

how to input the "logon commands", the operator cannot change the operating environment of the computer.

In addition, the operator has to have the physical ability for operating the keyboard. That is, if an operator can not operate the keyboard because of a handicap to their hands, even if the operator can operate a mouse or another interface, the operator cannot change the operating environment of the computer so thus cannot use the computer. On the other hand, according to amended claim 1, if the operator can insert the information storage medium into the user recognizing unit, the operator can change the operating environment of the computer so that he can use the computer.

In addition, as the information storage medium is automatically and directly readable by the user recognizing unit while being inserted into the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium is readable by the user recognizing unit with less trouble concerning communication-state between the information storage medium and the user recognizing unit. Especially, the communication-state between the information storage medium and the user recognizing unit may never be "busy", as opposed from Bertram. This distinction is essential with respect to the rapidity of changing the operating environment of the computer.

Amended claim 2 recites that the information storage medium is automatically readable by the user recognizing unit while being in a position near to but apart from the user recognizing unit.

The advantages obtained by the above feature are as follows:

As the information storage medium is automatically readable by the user recognizing unit while being in a position near to but apart from the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium is readable by the user recognizing unit without inputting "logon commands" as in Bertram. This difference is very important with respect to the easiness of changing the operating environment of the computer.

In Bertram, in order to change the operating environment of the computer, it is necessary for the operator to know how to input the "logon commands" and to have the ability to input the "logon commands". That is, it is necessary for the operator to know the present assignment of the keys of the keyboard or the like. That is, if an operator, as a senior person, doesn't know how to input the "logon commands", the operator cannot change the operating environment of the computer.

In addition, the operator has to have the physical ability for operating the keyboard. That is, if an operator can not operate the keyboard because of a handicap to their hands, even if the operator can operate a mouse or another interface, the

operator cannot change the operating environment of the computer so thus he cannot use the computer. On the other hand, according to the amended claim 2, if the operator can make the information storage medium approach the user recognizing unit, the operator can change the operating environment of the computer so that he can use the computer.

In addition, as the information storage medium is automatically and readable by the user recognizing unit while being in a position near to but apart from the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium is readable by the user recognizing unit with less trouble concerning communication-state between the information storage medium and the user recognizing unit. Especially, the communication-state between the information storage medium and the user recognizing unit may never be "busy", as opposed from Bertram. This distinction is very important with respect to the rapidity of changing the operating environment of the computer.

According to amended claim 2, a user's will that causes the user recognizing unit to read the information storage medium is essentially unnecessary, that is, the user only has to carry the information storage medium with him or her and approach the user recognizing unit, because the information storage medium is automatically readable by the user recognizing unit while being in a position near to but apart from the user recognizing unit.

This is an epoch-making feature for the user, because the user doesn't have to know anything (for example, how to insert the information storage medium into the user recognizing unit).

Claim 3 defines the information storage medium as an ID card. Claim 4 recites that the user-environment information includes an OS language which is displayed and usable application software. Claim 5 adds that the user-environment information serves as a password for the system. Claim 20 recites that the user-environment information stored in the information storage medium includes a dedicated operating system, dedicated application software, a dedicated keyboard layout and a dedicated display language. It is submitted that these features are patentable over the art of record.

New claim 21 recites that the information storage medium is an ID card. New claim 22 recites that the user-environment information includes at least one of a type of an OS, a language in which information is to be displayed, usable application software and a key layout. New claim 23 recites that the user-environment information serves as a password. New claim 24 recites that the user-environment information stored in said information storage medium includes a dedicated operating system, dedicated application software, a dedicated keyboard layout and a dedicated display language. New claims 25 and 26 encompass the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 as well as the subject matter of

claims 20-24. It is respectfully submitted that these features are not taught or suggested by the art of record.

Conclusion

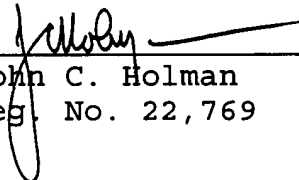
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-5 and 20 to allow these claims together with new claims 21-26 and to find the application to be in allowable condition.

If the Examiner believes that a conference would be of value in expediting the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 2, as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A user-adaptive variable-environment system comprising:

a computer provided with an operating environment and a user recognizing unit; and

an information storage medium to be applied to the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium being portable;

wherein the information storage medium stores user-environment information about environment suitable for a user, [and]

the user recognizing unit reads the user-environment information stored in the information storage medium and changes the operating environment of the computer so as to fit with the user-environment information, and

the information storage medium is automatically and directly readable by the user recognizing unit while being inserted into the user recognizing unit.

2. (Twice Amended) A user-adaptive variable-environment system comprising:

a computer provided with an operating environment and a user recognizing unit; and

an information storage medium to be applied to the user recognizing unit, the information storage medium being portable;

wherein the information storage medium stores user-environment information about environment suitable for a user, [and]

the user recognizing unit reads the user-environment information stored in the information storage medium and changes the operating environment of the computer so as to fit with the user-environment information, and

the information storage medium is automatically readable by the user recognizing unit while being in a position near to but apart from the user recognizing unit.